

Wildcards

What You Will Learn

- What wildcards are.
- When and where they can be used.
- The different types of wildcards.
- How to use wildcards with various commands.

Wildcards

- A character or string used for pattern matching.
- Globbing expands the wildcard pattern into a list of files and/or directories. (paths)
- Wildcards can be used with most commands.
 - ls
 - rm
 - cp

Wildcards

- * - matches zero or more characters.
 - *.txt
 - a*
 - a*.txt
- ? - matches exactly one character.
 - ?.txt
 - a?
 - a?.txt

More Wildcards - Character Classes

- `[]` - A character class.
 - Matches any of the characters included between the brackets. Matches exactly one character.
 - `[aeiou]`
 - `ca[nt]*`
 - can
 - cat
 - candy
 - catch

More Wildcards - Character Classes

- `[!]` - Matches any of the characters NOT included between the brackets. Matches exactly one character.
 - `[!aeiou]*`
 - baseball
 - cricket

More Wildcards - Ranges

- Use two characters separated by a hyphen to create a range in a character class.
- `[a-g]*`
 - Matches all files that start with a, b, c, d, e, f, or g.
- `[3-6]*`
 - Matches all files that start with 3, 4, 5 or 6.

Named Character Classes

- `[[:alpha:]]`
- `[[:alnum:]]`
- `[[:digit:]]`
- `[[:lower:]]`
- `[[:space:]]`
- `[[:upper:]]`

Matching Wildcard patterns

- \ - escape character. Use if you want to match a wildcard character.
 - Match all files that end with a question mark:
 - *\?
 - done?

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Summary

- *
- ?
- []
- [0-3]
- [[:digit:]]